

altogether without means, have assumed a new attitude toward their physicians: they seem to believe that medical attention and protection should come to them at little or no cost. In any event a large number of persons apparently think that financial accounts due physicians can be put aside for consideration only after the desires for all other personal comforts, such as clothing and automotive pleasures, have been fully gratified.

All of which makes for hardship to physicians and their own families. It is much to the credit of medical men and women, therefore, that, under these adverse and disheartening conditions, there has been no letting-down in the quantitative or qualitative character of services rendered to lay fellows, although many times physicians have known beforehand that, for much of their work, there will be little recompense other than thanks, and in some cases, perhaps, not even that. However, this very knowledge of duty well done should afford physicians, everywhere, real Christmas cheer. And as for the New Year of 1936, it is to be hoped that it will bring far more remunerative and happier days, than has been experienced by thousands of medical men and women in the last five or six years.

So again, at this festive time, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on behalf of all the members of the California and Nevada Medical Associations, takes pleasure in extending, for the coming season of Merry Christmas, the customary greeting to every other member, and also in expressing the heartiest wishes for prosperity and happiness in the coming New Year.

#### C. M. A. QUESTIONNAIRES: ON TAX-SUPPORTED HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

**Special Committee Appointed to Collect Needed Information: Component County Societies Should Respond Promptly.**—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, in its issue for July, 1935, printed the minutes of the Yosemite session of the House of Delegates, and, on page 62, a resolution introduced by Dr. L. A. Packard of Kern County, providing for the appointment of a special committee to study and report on tax-supported hospitals and medical services in California.

This special committee, consisting of Dr. Axel E. Anderson of Fresno, Councilor of the Fourth District, chairman; Dr. Louis A. Packard, Bakersfield, secretary, and Dr. E. Earl Moody, Los Angeles, has sent to each component county medical society in California three questionnaires containing in all a total of ninety-one different questions. Depending upon population and other local conditions, regarding some of the questions submitted, pages could easily be written. And, we may add, such reports would redound to the profit of both investigators and hearers.

\* \* \*

**Questionnaires Are Printed in This Issue.**—The complete questionnaires appear in this issue (page 459).

These blanks were sent to county society secretaries, and request was made that each component county unit deputize a committee to promptly gather the needed facts and figures for its respective district; and it is to be hoped that every society has at least done that much to forward the work.

Each member of the California Medical Association should appreciate the importance of co-operating with the State Association Committee in securing this much-needed information, which has such an intimate relationship to trends in present and future private practice.

An inspection, indeed, of the questions, reveals the magnitude of the important work which the committee is trying to do. Without any desire to criticize, it may be stated that if a poll of the five thousand members of the California Medical Association were to be taken on their ability to answer the queries with even an average degree of accuracy, it is doubtful if more than one member in five, or ten, would be able to qualify. Yet the economic, professional and social welfare facts desired should be familiar to every practicing physician. It may be added that, in similar problems before business organizations, it is quite probable that not 10 or 20 per cent, but 70 to 80 per cent of the members would be able to qualify. Business men make it their business to attend to their business!

\* \* \*

**Members Are Urged to Study the Questionnaires.**—Members are urged, therefore, to read the questionnaire's queries as presented on the page cited above. They are worthy of perusal because they are thought stimulating, and their consideration will make for alertness in observation of the activities mentioned. Owing to the individualistic nature of medical practice, mass observation and study (with unity of thought on matters affecting the profession, but outside the limits of private professional work), is to be noted only on those rare occasions when a special menace confronts medical practitioners. Even within the ranks of organized medicine, the number of members in a county medical society who consistently maintain an active interest in problems of general medical policy is quite limited.

\* \* \*

**County Societies and Members Should Co-operate with the Committee.**—Doctors Anderson, Packard and Moody, having prepared such excellent questionnaires on matters of vital importance, should receive a wholehearted support in their efforts to gather long-lacking, but much needed information concerning tax-supported hospitals and medical activities; in keeping with which the Council expresses the wish that every component county society will do its part. If action has not already been taken by any local society, and a suggestion is in order, it may be recommended that at the next meeting these questionnaires be read and commented upon, question by question. Such an informal exchange of opinion

would be as valuable as a scientific paper, and quite as enlightening; since members would then better appreciate the bigness and the importance of this study—which the House of Delegates at this year's Yosemite session instructed the State Council to submit to the component county societies.

### REFERENDUM ON PROPOSED QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE (BASIC SCIENCE) INITIATIVE LAW FOR CALIFORNIA

**Proposed Qualifying Certificate Law Was Considered in the November Issue.**—The first editorial in last month's CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE discussing some of the provisions in the draft of a qualifying certificate (basic science) law, as referred to the Council of the California Medical Association by its special committee, contained the essential sections of a proposed law to be submitted to the electorate as an initiative on the ballot sheet of the November, 1936, state election.

At the meeting of the Council held in San Francisco on November 2, when a report was made by the special committee concerning the procedures necessary in the submittal of an initiative, the best methods of obtaining the requisite 200,000 signatures were explained, and also the expenses involved, inclusive of the publicity needed to insure the passage of such a law.

The report was carefully considered by the Council, as noted in Item 15 of the Council minutes printed on page 448 of this issue. At Yosemite, in May of the present year, the House of Delegates had cast a unanimous vote in favor of a qualifying certificate (basic science) law, which endorsement in itself was construed as a mandate to the Council. However, because of the amount of expense involved, the Council felt that it would be proper to give the 5,000 members of the Association an opportunity to express their personal reactions to the proposed law; and by unanimous vote of the Council, a referendum to the membership was ordered, the time fixed for closing the ballot being two weeks after the date of mailing. The referendum postcard contained an announcement and a return ballot card, reading as follows:

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
450 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California

REFERENDUM NO. I

November 12, 1935.

To Association Members:

The Council, conforming to a resolution of the 1935 House of Delegates favoring a Qualifying Certificate (Basic Science) Act, has received the report of the Special Committee on this Act, commented upon in the November CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (on page 321).

The Council now submits to all members the question as to whether it shall direct the Committee to draft a law, secure the necessary signatures to an initiative petition, and attempt to secure enactment of the law by initiative ballot at the November 1936 election.

Time is important. Members are urged to register their desires by an immediate return of the attached card.

Signed: THE COUNCIL OF THE CALIFORNIA  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

Robert A. Peers, President

F. C. Warnshuis, Secretary

George H. Kress, Committee Chairman.

California Medical Association, Referendum, 1935

REFERENDUM NO. I

To the Council:

I record my answer to the Referendum.

Do you favor that the Council shall instruct the Association's special committee to secure a Qualifying Certificate Law by initiative at the 1936 November election, and to that end expend for signatures, postage and clerical expenses approximately \$35,000 of the Association's reserve funds? Yes ☐ No ☐

Signed.....

Address.....

County.....

Detach and Mail Before November 16, 1935

\* \* \*

**Results of the Referendum Vote Not Known at This Writing.**—At the time of this writing, we do not know the trend of the voting. If the members vote in favor of submitting such an initiative law in November, 1936, the special committee, under the direction of the Council, will proceed with promptness in the preparation of the final draft of the law, and will take the other necessary steps to give it a place on next year's state election ballot sheets. If, however, the members do not vote in favor of submitting such an initiative law at the present time, the special committee and Council will continue their studies of the subject for report to the House of Delegates at the San Diego meeting in May, 1936.

\* \* \*

**Later: The Association Members Cast a Five to One Vote in Favor of the Qualifying Certificate Initiative.**—On the day the galley proofs of the December issue reached the editor, he received a letter from Association Secretary Warnshuis that the vote (with more than 2,000 ballots cast), was running about five to one in favor of a qualifying certificate law. It may be of interest, also, that in these first ballots that were cast, the proportion in favor in Los Angeles County was as 13 to 1, in Alameda County, as 4 to 1, and in San Francisco County as 3 to 1.

### QUESTIONNAIRE POLL OF C. M. A. MEMBERS: ON HEALTH INSURANCE

**California Medical Association Takes a Poll of Physicians on the Subject of Health Insurance.**—Item 9 of the Council minutes of its November 2 meeting mentions the attendance of a committee from the Sacramento Society, whose members, at the September 7 meeting of the Council, were requested by the Council to present a questionnaire relating to the taking of a poll of all licensed physicians in California holding